

**EMBARGO: 22:01 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

## **BAFTA WINNING TASKMASTER REVEALS SERIES 13 LINE-UP**

**ARDAL O'HANLON – BRIDGET CHRISTIE – CHRIS RAMSEY – JUDI LOVE – SOPHIE DUKER**

**EMBARGO 22:01 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November** - Following the crowning of the latest champion, BAFTA winning show Taskmaster reveals the brand-new series 13 line-up featuring five courageous comedians eagerly waiting their turn to step into the Taskmaster's house and show their mettle in the most hard-fought but utterly ridiculous show on television. Airing in 2022 on Channel 4, Taskmaster stars the show's creator **Little Alex Horne** scuttling behind the deafening footsteps of demanding overlord and the Taskmaster himself, **Greg Davies**.

Hoping to win valuable points, eternal glory, and favourable treatment from the *Taskmaster* are: stand-up, actor, and author **Ardal O'Hanlon** (*Father Ted*, C4), award winning comedian **Bridget Christie** (*Stand Up For Her*, Netflix), stand-up comedian and TV host **Chris Ramsey** (*The Chris Ramsey Show*, Comedy Central), comedian and presenter **Judi Love** (*Loose Women*, ITV), and comedian, actress, and podcaster **Sophie Duker** (*Live At The Apollo*, BBC One). Having voluntarily signed up for the inevitable metaphorical slaughter at the hands of the tyrannical Taskmaster, each contestant will be put through their paces in a brand new set of tasks designed to test their daring, dexterity and dignity under extreme pressure. Who of our latest quintet will be immortalised in the Taskmaster Champion hall of fame?

Executive Producers for the series are Alex Horne, Richard Allen-Turner, Rob Aslett, James Taylor, Jon Thoday and Andy Devonshire (*The Apprentice* and *The Great British Bake Off*), who also acts as Series Director, while Andy Cartwright is Series Producer. Commissioned for Channel 4 by Head of Entertainment, Phil Harris and Head of Live Events, Tom Beck.

**Transmission details to be revealed in due course**

### **WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID ABOUT SERIES 12 OF TASKMASTER:**

*"This has become one of the funniest shows on television"*  
**Helen Stewart, The Sunday Times**

*"Taskmaster is a beacon of silliness; a show that leaves dignity at the door and offers good-natured absurdity instead"*  
**Phil Harrison, The Observer**

*"Now on its 12<sup>th</sup> series, and still probably the funniest show on TV"*  
**Guardian Guide**

*"This is the 12<sup>th</sup> series of the BAFTA-winning show, but the well of ingeniously tedious tasks will seemingly never run dry. Davies and Horne are a fine double act, and their "pre-prepared banter" is as much a reason to watch as the tasks"*  
**Joe Clay, The Times**

*"Alex Horne's peculiarly brilliant imagination keeps churning out inventive challenges, Greg Davies continues to hand out withering insults and a steady stream of competitors line up to take both on the chin, they could screen this wonderful show all year round and no one would much mind"*

**Gabriel Tate, The Daily Telegraph**

*"The formula has evolved slightly over the years and across the channels, but it's still the case that for pure, artisanal silliness, there's not much that can beat a dose of Taskmaster"*

**David Butcher, Radio Times**

*"on the basis of this opening episode, it's going to be an excellent series"*

**★★★★★ Steven Perkins, TV Times Magazine**

*"The peculiarly addictive, even oddly poignant affair, is back for a 12<sup>th</sup> series, as Greg Davies's eponymous mad god put the latest lost souls through their pointless paces"*

**Ali Catterall, The Guardian**

*"Back with more absurd mayhem, this is possibly the best comedy game show on telly"*

**Sara Wallis, The Daily Mirror**

*"The hilarious, BAFTA-winning game show is best for a 12<sup>th</sup> series, and it's as wacky as ever"*

**★★★★★ Daily Mail**

*"Taskmaster is still the most reliably lough-out-loud show"*

**★★★★★ Mail on Sunday**

*"[A] sort of wonderful silliness that makes this show unique (well, until the copycats arrived)"*

**Gerrard Gilbert, The I**

*"The most consistently funny show on TV returns for series 12"*

**Simon Ward, Virgin Media**

*"I'm beyond delighted to report that the wonderful Greg Davies and the wonderful Alex Horne are back with another series of the wonderful Taskmaster"*

**Mike Ward, Daily Express**

**★★★★★ Boyd Hilton, Heat Magazine**

*"As always, it's fun, incredibly silly and very funny viewing"*

**The Sun TV Mag**

*"Alex Horne's ridiculous challenge show continues to be the most reliably entertaining hour on TV"*

**Total TV Guide**

*"There's an infantile joy in comedy game show Taskmaster. Now in it's 12<sup>th</sup> series, and about to reach the 100<sup>th</sup> episode, it's becoming more popular than ever, and comedians are falling over themselves to take part"*

**Tom Spilsbury, TV Choice**

**★★★★★ JL, TV Times Magazine**

*"Taskmaster is one of the best TV Game shows of all time. Fact"*  
**Sara Wallis, The People**

*"Its pure mindless fun... it often veers into unexpectedly hilarious territory"*  
**Simon Bland, Joe.co.uk**

## **ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- *Taskmaster* is a BAFTA winning and International Emmy nominated comedy entertainment show originally created by Alex Horne. Greg Davies stars as the all-powerful "Taskmaster" who, with the help of his loyal assistant Horne, sets out to test the wiles, wit and wisdom of five comedians through a series of strange and surreal challenges in what is the most hard-fought and ridiculous comedy entertainment format on TV.
- 117 episodes have been produced in the UK so far, with a further 21 ordered by Channel 4 as part of a landmark six season deal in 2020. Series 10 – 15 air on Channel 4 from Autumn 2020, following nine record-breaking series on UKTV's Dave.
- The show enjoyed its best performance on record with it's Channel 4 launch which reached 3.9 million consolidated views after the first episode, winning the majority share of young viewers 16 – 34's and making it the best-performing new entertainment show of this year (Broadcast, 2020). Since the programme's initial launch in 2015 on UKTV's Dave, *Taskmaster's* audience has grown by 80% from series one to series nine.
- *Taskmaster* was crowned Best Comedy Entertainment at the BAFTAs 2020 and won Best Entertainment Programme at the Broadcast Awards 2018, having previously received two more nominations for both awards. It has also been nominated for the Bruce Forsyth Entertainment Award at the NTA's 2021, Studio Entertainment at Rose d'Or 2021, Best Entertainment Programme at the RTS Awards, Broadcasting Press Guild Awards, the Broadcast Digital Awards, Edinburgh TV Award, the TV Choice Awards, and Best Returning Format in the International Format Awards 2020.
- The original *Taskmaster* programme has been sold to 94 countries, while the format has been sold to 12 with 150 local episodes being made outside the UK including local versions of the show produced for VTM in Belgium, TVE in Spain, and two series for TVNZ in New Zealand. While the original show aired on The CW in the U.S. in 2020.

- The format has seen huge success in Europe, with the Swedish version winning Programme of the Year at the Kristallen in 2020 and 2019 (Sweden's TV Academy Awards) and its fifth series for SVT reaching ratings of over a 50% market share in a primetime weekend slot. Norway's original version of Taskmaster, 'Kongen Befaler's won Best Entertainment Show at the prestigious Golden Screen Awards 2020 and won the Norwegian TV Academy Award (Gullruten) for Best Entertainment in 2020, where a fourth has been commissioned by Discovery. Two new series have been ordered for MTV in Finland after its first episode ranked in the top ten most watched shows in the country, and a fifth series for TV2 in Denmark.
- The Taskmaster YouTube channel has seen huge success internationally, reaching just under 3 billion impressions since it first launched in October 2019, with just under half of the channel's views and over a third of its subscribers originate from the U.S. The channel has had over 45 million hours of content viewed with 55% of those hours from the US (25 million hours watched). The show has grown significantly in popularity with U.S. audiences and over the last year there have been total of 56 million views, that's a 152% increase on the previous 12 months (22 million views), while a total of 16 million hours have been watched making a 165% increase on the previous 12 months (6 million hours).
- *#HomeTasking* had over 100 million impressions across all content on YouTube. Viewing grew by 42%, while subscribers grew by 85% since it launched on the Taskmaster YouTube channel. It was watched in 125 countries with viewers ranging from the US to the UK and from Moldova to Mongolia.
- The Taskmaster Book 200 Extraordinary Tasks for Ordinary People has sold over 136,251 copies, while a second book 'Bring Me The Head of the Taskmaster' published in September 2021 and has sold almost 30,000 to date. Both books featured as Sunday Times Bestsellers at launch. The Swedish version of the book has sold 70,000 copied to date.
- A Taskmaster boardgame was released in Autumn 2019 and entirely sold out a week after it went on sale. It has sold almost 180,000 copies to date along with an expansion pack which was released this year along with the launch of the official Taskmaster shop.
- Taskmaster is working with Homeless Link; the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services, creating a virtual Taskmaster at Home event with all the money raised going to homeless charities across the UK. Having raised over £115,000, the virtual event is running throughout the winter months and further information can be [found here](#).